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## SELF-ALIGNING BLOOD COLLECTION TUBE WITH ENCODED INFORMATION

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A tube is provided for biological fluids that includes a closed bottom, an open top and a cylindrical sidewall extending therebetween. An alignment key is formed at a selected circumferential position on the tube. An array of machine-readable information is provided on the tube at a specified angular position relative to the alignment key. The alignment key functions to position the tube in a laboratory apparatus at a rotational position that will ensure proper alignment between the array of information and a portion of the apparatus that is operative to read the array of information. The array of information may be in the form of a magnetic strip or optically readable information such as a bar code.

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